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Warm days ahead
Dreaming about fishing on page 3

Wonderful words
Celebrating Poetry Month on page 4

Dino discovery
3D printing all walks of life on page 5

Spring has sprung at Abbey Gardens for their annual Easter event this weekend. /FILE

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NORMAN: *Trees*

HI GUYS. I'm Norman. My sister's called Breton. Historical names. We've been homeschooled up until this year. Mom works in town now, and drives us to the highway to wait for the morning school bus. Dad walks us home from drop-off at 3:42 p.m. It's exactly 1142 steps back up the driveway to our trailer. Try counting that in French!

It's a nice trailer. Two-bedrooms, furnished, wood stove, insulated. It was already connected to hydro and stuff when we moved there during COVID.

DEB REED
Wind in the Attic

It's by a pond we call *Snack Lake*. We built a raft and tree house there. Berry bushes grow all around the water. We pick, and Dad makes jam. Raspberry's my favourite.

We live in a sugar bush. We manage it all spring. *Snack Lake Maple Syrup* is getting popular. We also cut firewood to deliver. I drive the ATV to collect the smaller branches. I use a tiny chainsaw to trim them up for kindling bundles. If it's a weekday, we do some fact-checking while we work. Types of mushrooms, turtles, bird calls, animal tracks, clouds, snakes, rocks. How science fits nature. How nature fits Canada.

My dad likes Canadian history. And art. Especially The Group of Seven. He just loves the land. He was taught at home by his parents near Whitefish Falls. School was too far away, so Grandma used second-hand books to keep him going. She also wanted him to learn bushcraft. He sketched forest, sky, moose. He ate moose too.

Dad hunts deer every season. We butcher them to freeze. Venison stew is delicious. Mom believes in vitamins, so our greenhouse makes salads, our orchard makes desserts, and our outdoor veggie bed … well, you get the picture. We practice math by weighing, measuring, and recording on charts and graphs. We also read something out loud every day.

But my parents decided it was time we both started in the local school. It's been just great so far. And it looks like my teacher also likes history and art since she's using a pencil and sketchbook while we're writing at our desks. Plus, she's always explaining how our spelling words came to be. English is not only made up of Greek and Latin. It can also have Indigenous, Viking, and many other roots. Miss Fields so reminds me of my dad. They both get all hyper about facts. Like: *did you know that the kiwi in your lunch bag comes all the way from Chile?* Or*: bananas are actually berries*? I've been looking up answers forever, but I just learned today that *google* is a modern made-up word!

My first three weeks of Grade 6 have been fun. I've friended some cool kids. Not online. No social media for me. But when we draw names to make trivia teams, I'm usually elected leader. Miss Fields adds extra Canadian facts every week. I'm more competitive here than with my Sunday pond-hockey buds!

Whoever said that real school is boring! No chance.

County Life

The following inserts are being distributed with County Life this week:

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River fishing fundamentals

STEVE GALEA
Beyond 35

WITH THE open water river fishing season for trout underway in some locations, I think it would serve us well to review a few basic angling techniques that have been avoided by respectable fishing writers.

I am speaking about lure or fly placement while on the river.

Not to brag, but I happen to be an expert on the subject.

I think it is fair to say that you can immediately tell an experienced angler from an inexperienced one by where they place their lures or flies. A new angler will frequently place them so high up in a tree or phone line that they are virtually irretrievable. Conversely, an old river rat will place their lures or flies within reach of the ladder they have on the roof rack of their vehicle, or at least low enough in the tree that it can be climbed to.

Some inexperienced anglers are probably saying, "Hold it! What about lure or fly placement in the water? Where should our offerings go there?"

Those are good questions.

Often, getting a lure into the water from a high shrub or tree is as easy as applying the correct amount of cursing combined with yanking on the line. Done correctly, the lure or fly will eventually let go – and, if your technique is correct – take only half a tree or shrub with it.

With any luck at all, the whole tangled mess will land in the water.

My preference is to land these well upstream from the fish I am targeting. That way the fish will not be startled – although the angler that creates a huge splash beside might.

Once in the water, you have the advantage of having your fishing line camouflaged as it, the lure, and the shrubbery approach the fish.

Of course, there is a fine line between camouflaged and having the fly or lure hidden within a ball of vegetation. Ideally, you want the fly or lure to dangle beneath this mess in the water so the fish can see it.

Strike detection is easy in situations like this. If the whole floating mass of vegetation goes under and perhaps moves unnaturally sideways or upstream, you should probably set the hook.

But don't set it too soon or hard, or you'll pull the whole pile of line and vegetation out of the water and land it back into the trees or phone lines again.

This can be frustrating.

Believe it or not, there are anglers who never tangle a bush, tree, or phone line. They focus on the submerged rocks and sunken logs instead. Watch them carefully. Typically, their flies and lures are hung up within a foot of an actively feeding fish.

Luckily, they are never hung up for long. Often one good yank on the line gets them into the trees and phone lines like the rest of us.

Another situation rarely addressed by respectable angling writers is the tug of war scenario. This is when two anglers across the river from each other tangle lines. This usually results in simultaneous hooksets and a tug of war. Then, after a spirited fight that involves at least two dramatic jumps, and a few head shakes, the lighter angler is reeled in for a photo or two, and then quickly released.

The best thing to do in a situation like this is stand clear and let them make their way down river as they try to land each other.

There's really not much you can do to help. Unless you brought along a big enough net.

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JOB FAIR DAY 2026

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15
8:30 AM TO 2:00 PM

Haliburton Highlands
Secondary School Gym

HHSS RED HAWKS

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This is not a 'trade' only Job Fair. We would like to include as many businesses as possible from across Haliburton County. We will also have outdoor space available for any participants who would like to bring larger tools or equipment. The more interactive your space is, the more engaged the students will be.

To book your space contact Aggie Tose at 705-457-6901 or by email at info@hchba.ca

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Poetry in motion

SOME READERS will immediately recognize that I borrowed the title for this month's column from Johnny Tillotson's 1961, number 1 hit of the same name. Of course, you'd have to be of a certain 'vintage'.

April is Poetry Month, music is poetry and many poems have been put to music. Auld Lang Syne by Robbie Burns and Richard Cory by Edward A. Robinson come to mind. Certainly there are many more contemporary examples.

GREG J. ROE
Music Notes

That isn't to say that all music is poetry or that all music is good poetry, but there is no doubt that they are *Kissin' Cousins* … to reference Elvis.

Like music, poetry has characteristics such as rhythm, rhyme, and metre and there are poems called ballads and others simply lyric poetry. Both poetry and music can evoke strong emotions in the reader/listener. There are many other similarities between music and poetry, too numerous to mention here, but any English teacher will tell you that if you want to 'sell' poetry to your students, use music. Good poetry and good music have both been described as "the best possible words put in the best possible way".

As far back as the Middle Ages, poetry has been recited using the backdrop of music to enhance the recitation. The 'Beat Generation' also used music as a backdrop for poetry readings in the coffee houses and jazz clubs all over North America. (To improvise on a theme, does anyone out there remember Maynard G. Krebs ?). It's important to note that the music was purely a backdrop … The poems were not songs. That came later with the folk movement. There is, of course, a grey area here as none of these periods of time were clearly delineated.

Canada has produced many excellent singing poets in the form of the singer/songwriter. We have Ian Tyson (think Cowboy Poetry Festival), Joni Mitchell, Gordie Lightfoot, and Leonard Cohen. Cohen actually started his career(s) as a poet and many of his songs can be found in his books of poetry, such as Stranger Music. His works can stand firmly alone as either poems or songs.

As most would know, Haliburton County is a hot bed of artistic endeavours, and poetry is no exception. In fact, I attended a wonderful poetry event here in Haliburton about two weeks ago.

There are many poets hidden away in the Highlands. Some are blatantly out there as poets while others pursue the art in more clandestine ways. I'd venture to say that almost everyone has written a poem, at some point in time.

So grab a book of poetry, find a child, grandchild, friend or just yourself and sit down and read a poem (or two). It will be music to your ears. And remember: "If you see someone walking down the street talking to themselves, don't cross to the other side; rather, approach them for they are the poets , and you have nothing to fear from poets, but the truth!"

Next month in this column, we will be taking the ultimate road trip. So in the spirit of Poetry Month:

If you ever plan to motor west
Try to take my way, that's the highway,
that's the best
Get your kicks on Route 66.

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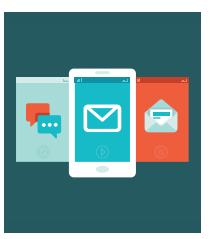

Have a thought, comment or opinion you'd like to share?

Send a letter to the editor to emily@haliburtonpress.com

The computer wiz who hugs dinosaurs

JERELYN CRADEN

Special to *County Life*

Dear Reader, some people come by their talents naturally like child protégés: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart who played the harpsichord at four, composed at five, and performed before royalty at six. Stevie Wonder, often referred to as "Little Stevie Wonder" when he signed with Motown records at age 11 and released his first #1 hit, *Fingertips,* at age 13. Kim Ung-Yong, listed in the Guinness Book of World Records for the highest IQ, who was a guest physics student at Hanyang University at age three and worked at NASA as a child. Then there's Kyle Bradley, owner of Techmedix in Haliburton, a computer wiz who was "yanked out of my fifth-grade class (at ten years old)," he said, "to fix our school's computers."

You see, Bradley was born into a family whose interests were centered around computers. In fact, his parents met through a Commodore 64 user group (an 8-bit home computer introduced in l982 listed in the *Guinness World Records* as the best-selling desktop computer model of all time), and growing up in an environment where technology was fun and fascinating, plus, winning a brand new computer (in a draw) when he was all of one year old, provides a window into how Bradley, according to him, "became a tech guy through osmosis." But hugging a 3D printed dinosaur? Did I mention that?

As you can see in the photo, Bradley is, indeed, hugging a dinosaur which, by-the-way, he made with one of his two 3D printers. What drew him to 3D printing?

"Curiosity and considering that the rest of my life has been all tech related, it fell into the wheelhouse of learning something new that became an addiction." He added, "I needed to have something that's fun, that breaks up a 15-hour workday … something a little bit different."

According to Bradley, this is how the process works in very simple terms: "You find a design that you like and input the design/file into the computerized 3D printer which then builds the model upward layer by layer on a flatbed. It is a little more complex than that. For example, to build an object like a rose, there are settings that need to be understood and used in order to have the result, print out properly. It's not like printing a document. There's actual time invested into it."

"The machines that I use primarily can do up to ten inches in height or ten inches cubed. Going from something really small like a keychain to a large dinosaur – the difference in time could go from one hour for small models to stretching over days for large models. My large t-rex took 60 hours to produce."

Kyle Bradley has taken 3D printing to a whole other level with flowers, car parts, and even a dinosaur. /JERELYN CRADEN

"I try to have something going every day. Quite often when a client comes to my office, they can actually watch a model grow in layers."

Bradley's 3D prints include socket-buddies, (a tongue-in-cheek mechanical object shaped like a socket with tiny hands and feet), rose-buddies – delicate looking roses with individuated petals and tiny hands and feet, dragons, fidgets, cell phone holders, moose and deer, and umpteen other novelties, some with practical uses.

"3D printing is fun. I enjoy making the stuff," he said. "I get a thrill watching people interact with the prints. Whether it's slithering a dragon across a table … or giving the dinosaur a hug. If you can tell me when you'll ever get to do that, you're doing better than me. There is something really cool to me to live vicariously through somebody else. To see a reaction that they don't expect. And, then it's fun when I get to hand it off."

Bradley recalled: "When I made my first dragon, even more than kids, it was a 75-year-old man who loved it so much."

He explained: "There are things that can be produced with 3D printing that cannot be made en masse with injection-molding, such as: dragons and snakes. With 3D printing most models will come out in one piece, not so with mass-produced models."

As I looked around Techmedix I was reminded that Bradley's core business is computer sales, service, and network infrastructure. In fact, just a few feet from where I was sitting, were seven fully built computers ready to be delivered to a business based in Port Perry. And, with a business that often takes him away from the office on service calls, Bradley's 3D printers with built-in cameras enable him to check remotely on a model as it's being printed. "I can stop a print remotely if it's not going well," he said.

Almost as an aside, Bradley said: "I prototyped a part for my truck off a 3D printer. Having the means to produce your own consumable part is awesome."

Which leads us to the future of 3D printing beyond the hobbyist and into the world-at-large. I caution you: Hold onto your bonnet!

Industry-Specific Impact

Healthcare: Beyond custom prosthetics and dental implants, the next frontier is *bioprinting* - using bio-inks composed of living cells to create tissues and, eventually, complex organs for transplantation.

Construction: Large-format 3D printers are beginning to print architectural components and entire housing structures. This promises to reduce labour costs, increase design freedom for architects, and lower the carbon footprint by using locally sourced or recycled building materials.

Consumer Goods: We are moving toward a "print-on-demand" model for everyday items. Through online platforms, you will be able to select a design (often AI-generated or customized), which will then be manufactured at a local print farm and delivered quickly, eliminating the need for massive inventories.

Aerospace & High-Reliability: The ability to print complex, lightweight geometries that are impossible to machine traditionally remains a primary driver for aerospace, where every gram of weight reduction significantly impacts fuel efficiency.

And, Dear Reader, in the meantime, you and I can enjoy stopping by Techmedix (lower level below Masters Books on Highland Street) and if our timing is right, watch one of Bradley's 3D prints come to life.

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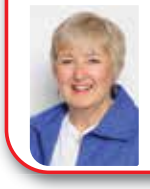

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Whimsy

THE HORRORS, they persist.

We know all the news is hard to hear. And not just a little rough on the surface. Every single story is filled with jagged edges and unsettling prose.

When we think it won't get any worse, the next page turns. A new day, a new headline. Rock bottom again; wallowing in the pits of lost hope and misguided optimism, a cruel and dizzying combination.

EMILY STONEHOUSE
County Life Editor

We can't change it. We can do what we can. Educate, inform, read, write. We can raise a generation of empathetic individuals, boycott brands that prioritize profit over people.

But those are slow, crawling acts of defiance.

What can we add to our day to day that goes against the grain of grief?

My short answer: whimsy.

It's one of those words that sounds similar to the meaning. A cute, fizzy little phrase that means magic, captures quirkiness.

Its origins date back to the early 1600s, with notes of fanciful expression tied into early literature. It has connections to the word "whim" meaning spontaneous and sudden, as well as "whimsical".

According to the *Merriam Webster Dictionary*, the origin story carries its own form of magic.

Even the origin of whimsical is whimsical: its ultimate source (by way of the noun whimsy) is the now-obscure whim-wham, a noun from the early 16th century that first referred to an ornamental object or trinket, and later to an eccentric impulse or interest - that is, to what in modern terms can be called a whim. The origin of whim-wham isn't clear, but it's among a class of words known as reduplications, words that are formed by repeating a word, as in go-go, or by adding to a word one that sounds very similar to it, as in dillydally. (In the case of whim-wham, the original duplicated term has been lost to time.) While whimsical first described those who tend toward whimsy, it now commonly describes things that are unusual in a playful or amusing way.

To me, whimsy is something I try to incorporate into my everyday life. In my home, it comes in the form of twinkly lights, fairy mushrooms, and little doorways to unknown worlds etched into the drywall. It's dollhouses and birdhouses and mouse houses in every nook and cranny, and sparkling holiday villages and evergreen boughs.

In a lot of ways, my form of whimsy is a reconnection with my inner child. It's giving the little soul that still resides under the hardened crust of adulthood a warm hug, a recognition of relevance, an honouring of existence.

And as a result, it's paving a path for my own kids to see the magic that can glimmer in this world when all the lights go out.

So maybe whimsy isn't just fanciful and free. Maybe it's an ultimate act of defiance in a time where joy is seen as weakness, when kindness is seen as extinct.

Maybe we live in our own little worlds; the ones made up for imagination and wonder and whimsy, until the dark cloud has passed - preserving our magic and power until there is a time to shine again.

Because the horrors, they persist.

But whimsy never wanes.

Top 10 reasons to buy an exercise bike

LATELY, I have been thinking very seriously about buying an exercise bike. Currently, I'm on the fence about this, so I made a list of reasons why I should get one. Here are my top 10.

STEVE GALEA
Humour Columnist

1. No one is going to make fun of me for wearing spandex and a bike helmet in the basement.
2. Less road rash if I wipe out on the carpet.
3. I'm a shy person with an undeniable urge to wear cycling shorts.
4. There are no steep hills in my basement.
5. Hate changing flat tires.
6. I have an unnatural love of going nowhere.
7. Two words: Peloton phobia.
8. You can't put a bell and bicycle basket on a treadmill.
9. My love of second helpings.
10. If I ride with no hands, I can still eat dessert.

Remains-II

Stone Sky sheltering the bones of trees, strewn across the crescent of shore,
their carcasses, like sculptures, hewn by Wind and storm, their remains, reminders of what they used to be,
living trees surrounding them, waiting for spring to rouse them from their winter's rest,
standing alongside boulders shrouded in Snow, the veil fraying as shards of sunlight pierce the cold,
these boulders, older than the relics of uprooted trees, scattered across the shore where I stand,
small as a pebble beneath the sprawling Sky, a smudge of Sun seeping through cloud,
Wind hibernating today,
as I inhale Air, pure and cold and clear, peering out at the pair of islands rising from the frozen Lake,
the spines of pines permanently bent by Wind, surviving winters of sleet and storm,
the smaller of the islands, just a speck,
scribbles of trees springing from it, and I wonder how long it would take to clomp towards it,
whether the ice is still thick enough to hold the weight of a human and their own secret burdens,
as I stand on the border between the shore and frozen Lake, still as the tree carcasses cradled by Snow,
my eyes tracing the contours of hills rising in the distance on the opposite shore, their presence consoling me,
their solidness a buffer from the world that swirls beyond them, a world beyond my own,
where I am canopied by the silence of a stone Sky and the smudge of Sun that doesn't bleed
when Sky is seared by missiles streaking across it, charring Air, scorching and scarring the earth,
that cradles corpses and the remains of their dreams, buried beneath the rubble,
a feeling of helplessness, heavy as lead,
sludging through my veins as I remain standing on the border between the shore and frozen Lake,
gazing out at the silhouettes of hills, the curve of their spines like a body when it's curled deep in sleep,
frozen like that forever, never awakening again to sunlight or Rain drumming on the windowpane,
only shards of shattered glass and shattered lives of those who remain behind,
still Alive on the cusp of spring,
uncertain what it will bring, my thoughts meandering as my feet turn to walk along the crescent of shore,
towards the relics of uprooted trees, passing boulders, pausing to place my hand on one of their caps of Snow,
leaving an imprint behind, that Sun will soon melt away, revealing the cool smoothness of its stone skin,
I approach the bones of trees, cradled by Snow, with a quiet reverence for what they used to be,
leaves fluttering on branches swaying in the Wind, before they were slayed by storm,
the bare branches of the living trees surrounding them, waiting for spring to birth new buds and leaves,
a tenderness seizing me, as I place my hand on the weathered remains of a nameless tree,
as if it were feeling flesh for a heartbeat that's no longer there, buried beneath layers of rubble,
deeper than the roots of trees slithering beneath the frozen earth, waiting to breathe.

Sylvie Kalenda

The Robins of Cardiff

Though the snow did cling, 'twas the first day of spring
And I wanted to celebrate
No matter what faith is dear, to all it's clear
That this is an important date

It was Sunday, too, so the thing to do
To start the brand new week
Seemed to me that it would be
To go to church and hear the minister speak

So off I went as a congregant
Since my celebrations weren't of the partying kind
And I hoped that a measure of spiritual treasure
Would be something that I'd find

I wasn't wrong, sermon and song
Spoke of a man from the distant past
Who was wise and kind, a type hard to find
So fond memories of him still last

I sat in the pew and listened to
The minister speak some interesting words
And then was surprised when I realized
She had started to talk about birds

She said she'd learned, when early each year they returned
That finding food could be a difficult feat
So to make it less hard, she spread seeds in her yard
For the birds as a special treat

This once attracted a flock from all over the block
That enjoyed the unexpected lunch
'Til assailed by feathery blows from a crowd of crows
Which were a raucous and boisterous bunch

Suddenly, during the melee, from the fray
A big robin did appear
Then it perched quite still, on her window sill
And showed absolutely no fear

There it stayed, unafraid
As it looked right up at her face
And, with a knowing nod, she said it was sent by God
To illustrate God's divine presence and grace

The sermon came to an end and I thought of a friend
Whose name was Mary Lou
She had a heart of gold and stories are told
About the kind things that she used to do

All critters wounded or lost, no matter the cost
At her place were welcomed and mended
They convalesced, with food and rest
And were most carefully tended

With the hurt and stray, she had a way
She'd heal them or give them a home
It was a good circumstance, if by chance
To her place they managed to roam

Once, by bad luck, a tragedy struck
And baby birds were left bereft of a mother's care
Though still alive, they couldn't survive
They were too young to find food anywhere

Someone knew about Mary Lou
And her way with creatures large and small
Then correctly guessed the young birds in the nest
Should be taken to her to have any chance at all

Mary Lou fed them by hand and could understand
Exactly what they needed to eat
And people were amazed that the birds were hand raised
Because that was an unusual feat

Thus, by and by, they grew large enough to fly
After being nurtured so carefully
And, for they were wild, not tame, the time eventually came
When they had to be taken outside and set free

It was hard to part because, with all her heart
Mary Lou loved those birds, it was clear
So, her eyes shone bright, with a radiant light
When she said what happened the following year

It was a lovely day, in April or May
Her living room window was open wide
And to her delight, some birds paused in flight
Then, through the open window, hopped inside

They wandered about and checked things out
And seemed as if, to each other, they said
Here we were raised, mercy be praised
We were kept safe, sheltered, and fed

Though far we did roam, this is our home
When we were motherless we were brought here to stay
And they looked as if they knew kind Mary Lou
And thanked her, and then flew away

Medicine and technology were employed, but her body was destroyed
For her, doctors couldn't do anything
And right 'til her last days, she continued to amaze
With the way she'd ease all creatures' suffering

She found relief in her belief
In a man who performed many a miraculous feat
Through the stories told, from times of old
She believed that, eventually, she and he would meet

Poorly she fared, but she never despaired
Or cried out from self-pity or the great pain
And though, one day, she went away
I believe Mary Lou lives, again

When birds sing at dawn, maybe they pass the story on
So it's known in each new bird generation
Of how the kindly soul, on whom illness took such a toll
Is now held in great veneration

It was a sign of love, from Heaven above!
Said the minister that day in church
An example of grace, from a holy place
That sent the robin to the windowsill to perch!

And, to give the minister her due, what she said was true
But there was more, of which she was unaware
You see, Mary Lou used to live in that Cardiff, Ontario, neighbourhood
And I'll bet the robins still look for her there.

The Robins of Cardiff was first published in
The Bancroft Times newspaper in 2012.

Written by Kathy Figueroa

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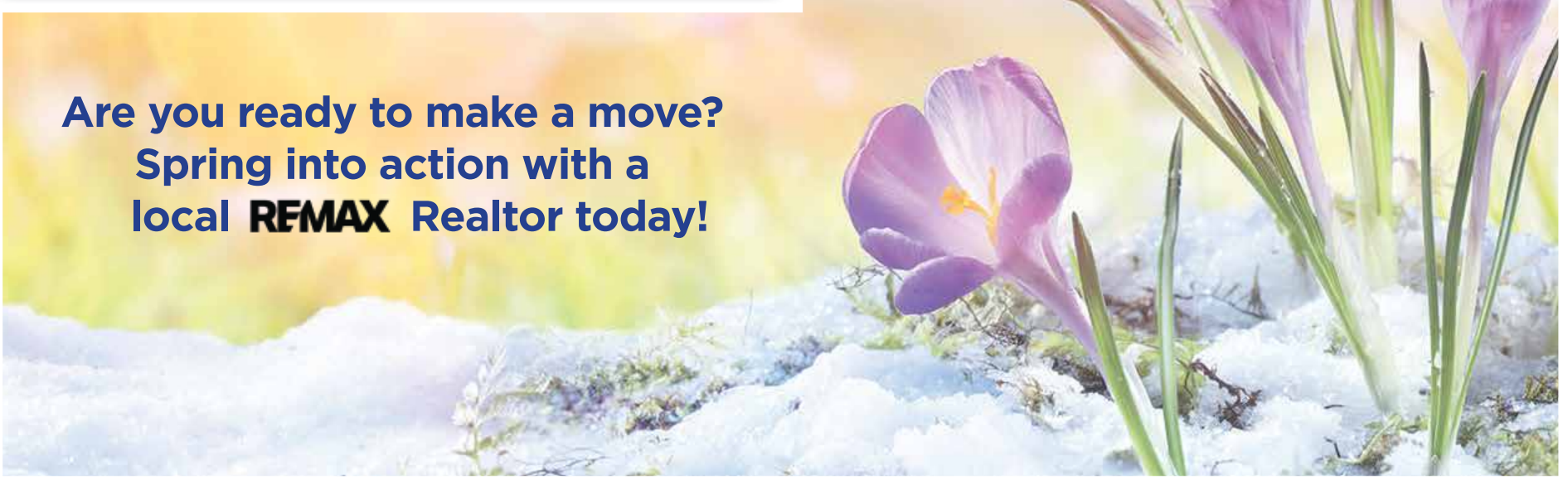

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Ontario

County Life welcomes photo submissions depicting life in the Highlands. Email emily@ haliburtonpress.com.
Please ensure images are high resolution - 200 dpi, 10 inches at its longest edge.

Nature in your backyard

Pine Marten in a tree by Tammy Nash

Flowers for Spring by Katrina Shaddock

Ice covered lichen by Randy Barber

Blue Jay by Jill Moulton

Haliburton County Community Resources Fair

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WITH SUPPORT FROM Haliburton Highlands

Haliburton Highlands Seniors Active Living Centre

Check out this month's SALC events and activities for residents aged 55+

Board Game Drop-In
various dates in April
Genealogy for Seniors
April 2, 10, 22, & 29
Yarners Social – April 8, 15, 22 & 29
Painting Class - April 2 & 16
SALC Needle Felting: Ladybugs
April 9, 14, 15, 24
Exercise with Georgia - April 8
Community Resources Fair - April 9
Chair Yoga with Ardith - April 9 & 23
Seniors Balance & Cardio Fitness Class – April 10, 17, & 24
Seniors Balance & Cardio Fitness Class – April 14, 21, 28
Musical Coffee House – April 11
Gardening for Seniors – April 11
QiGong for Seniors – April 13, 20, 27
Webinar: Bone Health 101
April 13
Tech Help Walk-In Clinic
April 14, 15, 17 & 22
Seniors Stretch Class
April 14, 21 & 28
Exercise Classes with Georgia
April 14, 21 & 28
Crafternoon Drop-In – April 15
Webinar: Renewal of Licence for 80+ -April 20
Mindful Movement in the Forest
April 22
Savouring Stories – April 23
Calling Cribbage Players – April 24
Senior Wellness Workshop – April 29
Garden Design with Native Plants
April 30

For full details, visit HaliburtonCounty.ca/SALC or pick up a calendar at a municipal office, library or Legion near you!

Haliburton County Seniors Active Living Centre (SALC)

Through this program, older adults (55+) and seniors (65+) are invited to get active, make friends, and be well!

The SALC Program is designed to provide social, cultural, learning, and recreational opportunities for seniors to stay fit, healthy and socially connected in their communities.

SALC Programming is available in Haliburton County through collaboration between the County of Haliburton and local municipalities, the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility, and multiple partners.

Funding for this program has been provided by the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility.

Ontario

Legion Events

Branch 441 Kinmount

Monday: Bid Euchre 1 p.m., Card night 7 p.m.
Wednesday: Mixed Darts, 7:30 p.m.
Friday: Bingo- Doors open at 5 p.m., play at 6:45 p.m.
Saturday: Clubroom opens at 3 p.m. Meat draw 5 p.m.
Special events:
2nd Sunday of the month Ladies Auxiliary - 11 a.m.
3rd Thursday of the month 7 p.m. executive meeting and 7:30 p.m. general meeting (members only)
Last Sunday of the month - All you can eat breakfast
Hall rentals available at reasonable prices.
Email: 441RCL@gmail.com Call 705-488-3462 or 705-928-7105. We welcome everyone to our events and we look forward to seeing you!

Branch 129 Haliburton

Mondays: Bridge 1 p.m. Schofield Rm. Youth darts 6:30 to 8 p.m. Clubroom 10 to 18 years of age. All are welcome, no experience necessary
Tuesdays: League darts 7 p.m.
Wednesdays: Bid Euchre 1 p.m. start – Main Hall. Bingo doors open at 6 p.m. Bingo 7 p.m. FirstWed of each month with jackpot. Follow Facebook.com/Branch129 Bingo for the most up-to-date information
Thursdays: General Meeting third Thursday of the month, 6:30 p.m. All members urged to attend.
Ladies Auxiliary last Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.
Fridays: Five meat draw, five prizes each draw, first draw 4:30 p.m., last draw 6:30 p.m. Tickets $2 per draw. Paul Sisson, MC. Friday fun darts from 4:30 p.m. and onwards. 50/50 Draw 5:40 p.m.
Whether you're planning a function for 10 or 200, call Cheryl Waller at 905-447-7741, email haliburtonlegionrentals@gmail.com or visit haliburtonlegion.com. Everyone is welcome! Club room hours: Mon. 3 to 6 p.m., Tues. 3 to 9 p.m., Wed/Thurs. 3 to 6 p.m. Fri. 3 to 7 p.m.

Branch 636 Minden

Lunch - Monday to Friday
Monday: Rug Hookers every second week. Bid Euchre 1 to 3 p.m.
Tuesday: Food 5 p.m. Canoe FM Bingo 6 p.m.
Thursday: Cribbage 1 to 3 p.m., Darts 7 to 9 p.m. and Euchre 7 to 9 p.m.
Every other Friday: Karaoke 8 to 11 p.m.
Friday Fish & Chips, Wings. Lunch 11a.m. to 2 p.m. and Dinner 4 to 7 p.m.
Saturday All Day Breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with three Meat draws at 11 a.m.
Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541.
Schedules are subject to change without notice.
Check our Facebook page Minden Legion Branch 636 for more info.

Branch 624 Wilberforce

Hours - Sunday: Special Events Only, Monday: 7 to 10 p.m., Tuesday: Special Events Only, Wednesday: 2 to 10 p.m., Thursday: 2 to 6 p.m., Friday: 2 to 11 p.m., Saturday: 2 to 7 p.m.

Call the Legion for more info 705-448-222

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HOME IMPROVEMENT

Looking out for each other

TERESA JORDAN
Community Living Contemplations

AS I left my home one morning this week, a stranger stopped on the road and asked me to roll down my window. She wanted to warn me that the highway that I was heading to was glare ice. This was so thoughtful, she had just turned off the highway so was probably so relieved to be done the terrible trek, but took the time to stop and warn me, someone that she did not know, who was clearly heading to the road she had just turned off from.

I love being reminded of this kind of kindness; the spontaneous gestures that have no planning, benefit or reward. The road was indeed very icy, and I still went on my way to work, despite the warning. This left me thinking about both aspects of my story: a person tried to warn me about a hazard, probably hoping that I would avoid the road. However, I needed to get to work, and I had tires I trusted so I carried on.

In a world where we have the opportunity to pass on advice or warnings to others, even strangers, we need to be at peace and feel good about taking the time and passing on the information. What the person does with that information or the possible outcome is not something we control or design, we need to be at peace with that too. We only know how we assess a situation through our lens, others see things differently all the time and might take the road less salted and easy because it is right for them.

SUMMER GUIDE
MAGAZINE IS COMING SOON!

To see your not-for-profit or community event listed at no charge in our Summer Guide Magazine, send an email to
HaliburtonSummerGuide@gmail.com
no later than Wednesday May 6

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Newly renovated 2-unit house on 9.5 scenic acres near Haliburton. LOWER: 1-bed, 1-bath. Features open-concept living, new appliances, in-unit laundry and outdoor living spaces. 10 minutes from Haliburton & perfect for peaceful living. Contact: info@aboveboardcarpentry.com **705-455-2196**

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Community Events

Send your event listing to classifieds@haliburtonpress.com

Maple Syrup Festival
When: April 4, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Where: Lloyd Watson Centre, Wilberforce
Hosted by the Wilberforce FUNraising Group. Free Admission. Pancakes and Sausages with locally produced pure maple syrup. All you can eat: Child (10 and under) $4. Adult $8. Plus Bazaar and Craft Table. More info: call 705-448-1285 or email skrogers1995@gmail.com.

Nocturnal Insects: Fireflies and Moths
When: April 7, 1 p.m.
Where: Minden Community Centre, 55 Parkside St. Minden
Thinking gardening this spring? Join the Minden & District Horticultural Society to learn about "Nocturnal Insects: Fireflies and Moths" guest speaker Kathleen Patnode followed by the monthly society meeting. New members welcome!

Come Together: A Fundraising Concert/ Dance for Point in Time
When: April 17, 7 p.m., doors open at 6:30 p.m.
Where: Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle St., Minden
Music provided by Adverse Conditions. Tickets are $25 in advance, or $30 at the door. Tickets available on www.eventbrite.ca, at Point in Time in Haliburton, or by calling 705-286-1470. Refreshments by donation at intermission.

Friends of The Haliburton County Public Library Café
When: Mon., April 27 1 p.m.
Where: Minden Hills Branch of The Haliburton Public Library, 176 Bobcaygeon Rd. Minden
The Friends of the Haliburton County Public Library are excited to host Fay Martin at our spring café. Fay is the author of "Dementia Widow." Join us for an informative afternoon to learn more about her recent book. Signed copies of Fay's book will be available for $25. Light refreshments will be served. Admission is by donation. Have a question, contact Penni Chalk 705-286-3276.

Recurring events

TOPS: Take Off Pounds Sensibly
When: Monday mornings 9:30 to 11 a.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion Branch 129, upper level
Admission: Yearly membership of $59
A non-profit/commercial network of weight-loss support groups, offers programs for healthy living and weight management.

Bridge for Seniors
When: Mondays at 1 p.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion - Schofield Room
All welcome

Haliburton Legion Walking Group
When: Mondays at 9 to 10 a.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion - Remembrance Hall
A safe walking environment. Lead by an Occupational therapist.

Free Balanced Fitness and Active Social Senior Classes
When: Every second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 10 to 11 a.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion - Remembrance Hall
All seniors are welcome. Group led by Registered Recreation Therapist

Bid Euchre
When: Wednesdays at 1 p.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion - Remembrance Hall
All welcome!

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Board of education cut is $272,000

Local boards facing more cuts

by Andrew Milne

No new cuts.

Well, maybe some.

The education minister's announcement a few months ago that there would be no further cuts to the education budget doesn't seem to have meant much when it came down to cuts locally.

All three boards in the planned amalgamated unit for this area — Muskoka, Victoria, and Haliburton — are facing additional cuts to their provincial transfer grants.

Muskoka and Haliburton — both boards which, due to the peculiarities of the current tax system have relatively low grant rates as compared with local levies — were capped at their respective 15 per cent maxima. Haliburton's grants dropped $272,000, while Muskoka's fell $728,000.

Victoria's drop is smaller in terms of percentage of grant, at around 9.5 per cent — but far larger in total dollars — at $2.6 million.

Victoria, Muskoka, and Haliburton vary widely in size and financial position (see sidebar on page 2 for summary). Due to the varying financial positions, the cuts seem to mean very different things to different boards. The Muskoka board already passed its budget, shortly after receiving the official word on the grant numbers, and was actually able to deliver a 3.3 per cent local mill rate reduction, without, says chair Karen Ellis, significantly affecting services. Ellis credited the fact that the board had made quite substantial cuts to transportation and staffing last year, as a significant factor in the relative calm that prevails around this year's board table.

In Victoria and in Haliburton, however, the cuts may mean very different things.

Haliburton trustees and administration haven't discussed it in detail yet, but seem to feel they're between a rock and a hard place as far as satisfying the province's requirements is concerned. The province has instructed the board not to raise taxes, and has stated the cuts should not affect the classroom, but, Haliburton's chair and director told *The Times* last week, it looks extremely unlikely to them that this is going to be possible.

Victoria's chair and director seemed that much more sure that in their board, the province's demands simply no longer answer to reality. Following last year's smaller cut, the Victoria board cut 100 staff from the payroll, and made program and transportation cuts. This year, they say, they're running out of places to turn.

They may well wind up increasing the local rates, say both chair Sharon Summers and director Dianne Dalton. But Summers very much wants to make one thing clear about her opinion about that decision.

Said Summers, "The part that needs to be understood is that it is not the Victoria County Board of Education that is raising the property tax. It's the province of Ontario that's raising the property tax. Because when they gave us this grant cut, they knew darned well this would mean a difference in property taxes — 3.3 per cent approximately. We're doing their dirty work, and we've been doing it a long time too."

Haliburton chair Cheryl Murdoch seemed to echo Summers' comments — and the general feeling around board tables that trustees are being made the scapegoats for the pain inflicted by provincial cuts.

Says Murdoch, "Somehow no matter how much is in the paper, on the radio or TV or anything, we're the middle group, and we always get caught and blamed. The public has to realize that we didn't do this. The public has to understand that we're being put in this position, and we're going to have to creatively come up with $270,000. And that's not an easy task."

Hurting the classroom

That the province can say there would be no reduction in funding, and then come in with cuts to the three local boards, say board sources, doesn't entirely surprise them.

Says Victoria's Dalton, "We said almost immediately when the minister stood up and made those comments, how can you? First of all we know that they guaranteed that they were going to give a subsidy to those boards that were hit by fifteen per cent or more. That subsidy last year came from outside the education pot. This year it was extracted from the education pot before the grants came out. We know that they also expanded the group of boards that were eligible, and that therefore took more money off. We knew there'd be growth in the province. We knew transportation grants would be down. So we

(more on page 2)

The Guild of Fine Arts' 1997 members show awarded its prizes this weekend to: Walter Verhoeven (knitting and crochet award of merit for his crochet cotton sweater), Shelley Beach (watercolour award of merit for "Red Sky in the Morning"), Grahame Wales (pottery award of merit for his birdfeeder), Wendy Bateman (textile award of merit for "Overshot Summer Jacket"), Kai-Liis McInnes (painting award of merit for "Monday, Monday, Monday"), Chris Stender (excellence in textiles guild scholarship for "Shades of a Desert"), Bob Robbins (excellence in three dimensional work guild scholarship for "Nesting Shaker Boxes"), Ruth Orr (excellence in framed work guild scholarship for "Reflections in Green"), Barbara Joy Peel (award of overall excellence scholarship and Pat Irwin memorial award of excellence in pottery for "Smoked Fired Vase"), Lynn Roberge Brohm (Ethel Curry Award in memory of Pat Irwin for "La Loba (Wolf Woman)"), and Jean Bolt (best new artist for her beaded scarf). Pictured are Verhoeven, Stender, Wales, John Peel accepting for Barbara Joy, Roberge Brohm, Bolt, and Jeanne Anthon, who presented the awards on behalf of the guild.

Another doctor signs for the summer

Minden has another new doctor, at least for the summer.

The Lions' medical clinic signed on Doctor James Orbinski as a locum to work starting this week. Orbinski will continue until the end of August.

Orbinski is a widely travelled physician with extensive experience in war zones, including Zaire, Rwanda, Afghanistan, and Somalia — all in the last four years — and helped deal with a cholera outbreak in Peru in 1992. He was chief of mission during his last three stints overseas, and is a founding member of Medecins Sans Frontieres (Doctors Without Borders) Canada. He has also run a private practice in Orangeville.

Orbinski will be taking patients at the Lions' clinic starting this Wednesday, and is seeking hospital privileges towards assisting in Minden's emergency ward.

Lions president Daryl Moore said the service club is very happy to have Orbinski's assistance for the summer, and expects he will be an ideal complement to the clinic's other full-time physician, Dr. Judith Smith. Summer is generally a busy time for the area's clinics and hospitals, due to the influx of tourists and seasonal residents.

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2026 MARKET OUTLOOK

As we settle into the start of 2026, I've been doing a lot of reflecting on the year behind us. The Haliburton market has officially transitioned into a buyer's market, moving away from the frantic pace of previous years toward a more cautious and strategic environment.

2025 Retrospective: A Shifting Landscape

- **Inventory Surge:** Listings spiked as COVID-era owners sold due to rising carrying costs and stricter short-term rental (STR) regulations.
- **Pricing Softening:** While waterfront remains the premier asset, average sale prices have begun to ease.
- **A Slower Pace:** Buyers are taking more time to decide, forcing sellers to recalibrate their price expectations.

2026 Outlook: Trends to Watch

- **Record-High Inventory:** A "double wave" of new 2026 listings and unsold 2025 carryover is expected to create the highest inventory levels in over a decade.
- **Sideline Buyers Return:** Stabilizing Bank of Canada rates are expected to bring cautious buyers back into the market.
- **Strategic Pricing is Vital:** In a high-volume market, accurate pricing is the most critical factor for a successful sale.
- **The Spring Advantage:** Baumgartner Realty Group anticipates a seasonal uptick in demand, advising sellers to list early to capture motivated "first-wave" buyers.

HALIBURTON COUNTY

RESIDENTIAL SALES

2024 **544 SALES** → 2025 **470 SALES**

14%

NEW LISTINGS

2024 **1419 LISTINGS** → 2025 **1516 LISTINGS**

6.8%

AVERAGE SALE PRICE

NON-WATERFRONT

2024 **$426,911** → 2025 **$397,497**

7.4%

WATERFRONT

2024 **$878,633** → 2025 **$811,671**

8.25%

**Data researched from the OnePoint Association of Realtors as of February 9, 2026*

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SCAN TO VIEW LISTINGS